

The Honorable *(Insert Legislator Name)*
Address

RE: Oppose H.R. 2840/S 1385 “Puppy Protection Act”

Dear *Senator OR Representative* _____:

I am writing you today as a concerned constituent to urge you to oppose H.R. 2840/S. 1385. These well-intentioned companion bills are intended to address irresponsible breeders or “puppy mills”, but as currently written will instead impose potentially harmful, arbitrary, and unnecessary mandates on responsible small hobby and specialty dog breeders.

Personalized section- Identify your level of involvement with dogs. Are you a dog owner, breeder, trainer, handler, or fancier? Do you breed dogs? Do you compete with dogs?

The one-size-fits all mandates in H.R. 2840/S. 1385 undermine the ability of high-quality breeders to utilize creative and scientific approaches to pet breeding and raising that emphasize the specific needs and requirements of individual animals and breeds to achieve optimal care and wellbeing.

Arbitrary mandates in this bill include specific requirements for temperatures, kennel engineering standards and breeding bans or protocols that lack scientific basis and are not appropriate across all breeds. For example, the bill prohibits keeping dogs in enclosures below 45 degrees Fahrenheit regardless of breed or training needs for working and sporting dogs. It is well known that many dog breeds are purpose bred specifically for working in conditions at or well below 45 degrees. Many of these breeds prefer living and working in cold temperatures.

How would this bill affect your ability to provide proper care or appropriate care for your animals? (See references in alert.) Do you own dogs that thrive in specific temperatures, should not have unfettered access to a play yard or are limited in their ability to spend time in outdoor (or indoor) spaces? Explain how your personal experience and expertise demonstrates that these mandates are not in the best interest of all dogs.

H.R. 2840/S. 1385 is not a viable means to creating more responsible dog breeders. However, it will certainly hurt responsible, law-abiding breeders who strive to provide loving homes for dogs, and push future pet owners to irresponsible breeders or internet sellers if they cannot find the breed they are seeking from a responsible source.

As your constituent and a responsible dog *owner or breeder*, I share in the sponsors’ concerns about the unacceptable conditions in which some dogs live, *but this legislation is not the solution. Instead, efforts should focus on enforcing existing negligence and cruelty laws that are ignored by irresponsible dog owners.* Further, consumer protection legislation may be a more appropriate means for ensuring consumers have access to healthy and happy dogs sourced from responsible breeders.

Please join me and many other responsible dog owners and breeders around the country by opposing H.R. 2840/S. 1385.

Sincerely,

Your Name
Address